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Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 13 of Security Council resolution 2003 (2011), by which the Council requested me to report every 90 days on progress made towards implementing the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The report provides an update on the situation in Darfur since my last report dated 30 December 2011 (S/2011/814), and includes an assessment of progress made against benchmarks set out in annex II to my report to the Council of 16 November 2009 (S/2009/592) and, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2003 (2011), paragraph 8, an assessment of the enabling environment for a Darfur-based political process.

II. Political developments

Framework for African Union and United Nations facilitation of the Darfur peace process

2. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2003 (2011), paragraph 9, in which the Council welcomed my intention to develop a road map for the Darfur peace process and requested that I work, in this regard, in close consultation with, inter alia, the African Union, a framework for African Union and United Nations facilitation of the Darfur peace process was finalized and transmitted to the Council on 20 March 2012 (S/2012/166). Its title reflects its focus on facilitation rather than a strategic plan, and distinguishes it from the road map the African Union High-level Panel on Darfur outlined in its 2009 report and subsequent reports of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. Key elements of the framework are (a) support for the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur; (b) the engagement of the Government of the Sudan and non-signatory movements to promote the cessation of hostilities and negotiations; and (c) support for internal dialogue and consultations.

Implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

3. During the reporting period, the signatory parties to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, the Government of the Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), continued to work towards the implementation of its provisions.

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On 27 December, the Government issued presidential decrees dissolving the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority created under the Darfur Peace Agreement and establishing the Darfur Regional Authority, the body principally responsible, in collaboration with the Government of the Sudan for the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

4. In accordance with the power-sharing provisions of the Doha Document, the Government appointed the 12 members of the executive organ of the Darfur Regional Authority. The appointments included five LJM members to the positions of Minister of Finance and Economic Planning; Minister of Reconstruction, Development and Infrastructure; Minister of Technology Development and Capacity-Building; Commissioner for Voluntary Returns and Resettlement; and Commissioner for Truth, Justice and Reconciliation. Other appointees included members of the National Congress Party and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA)-Unity and members of the parties signatory to the Declaration of Commitment to the Darfur Peace Agreement. An officer of the Sudanese Armed Forces was appointed Chairperson of the Darfur Security Arrangements Implementation Commission. The Darfur Regional Authority was officially inaugurated on 8 February in a ceremony held in El Fasher.

5. On 10 January, the Government issued three decrees establishing two additional States in Darfur (Central Darfur, with Zalingei as its capital, and Eastern Darfur, with El Daein as its capital). The Government released the Walis of Southern and Western Darfur from their posts and appointed new Walis. The incumbent Wali of Western Darfur was appointed as a presidential adviser. A senior member of LJM was designated Wali of Western Darfur, in accordance with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

6. The incumbent Wali of Southern Darfur, Abdul Hamid Musa Kasha, rejected his appointment as Wali of the newly established Eastern Darfur, stating that as an elected official there was no legal basis for his transfer. Demonstrations in his support took place in Nyala from 24 to 26 January. Ten students arrested on charges of "creating public disturbance" and "criminal mischief" were released on 29 January after the Nyala court found insufficient evidence for the charges against them. The newly appointed Wali of Southern Darfur assumed his duties on 24 January. Due to Mr. Kasha's continued refusal to accept the appointment of Wali of Eastern Darfur, Mohamed Hamid Fadlallah Hamed, a retired army general, was appointed to the position.

7. On 11 January, the National Human Rights Commission was established in accordance with the human rights provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and its members appointed, including Amal Hassam Babiker al-Tinay as Chairperson. At the invitation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. al-Tinay participated in the meeting of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions, held in Geneva from 19 to 26 March. She undertook her first visit to Darfur from 10 to 14 April to conduct a needs assessment and develop a strategic workplan for the Commission.

8. Also on 11 January, the Sudanese Minister of Justice issued a decree appointing Ahmed Abdel-Motalib as the Prosecutor for the Special Court for Darfur, with jurisdiction over gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian laws committed in Darfur since 2003. The Prosecutor is yet to undertake an official visit to Darfur, but has concluded an investigation into

an attack that occurred on 2 September 2010 on Tabarat (80 km west of El Fasher, Northern Darfur), in which an unidentified armed group attacked the marketplace, killing 37 villagers and injuring 35. A total of 21 arrest warrants have been issued in connection with the investigation. UNAMID is monitoring the developments.

9. The dissemination of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur by the signatory parties and civil society groups, which commenced in October 2011, continued during the reporting period. UNAMID supported the exercise through the provision of technical and logistical assistance. The Operation facilitated the holding by the parties to the agreement of 79 dissemination workshops between 1 January and 31 March in 26 locations for a total of 14,865 representatives of Darfuri stakeholder groups. Those who attended the workshops welcomed the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as the basis for peace in Darfur and noted that most of its provisions should be implementable by the signatory parties despite the lack of support from the non-signatory movements. Any delay in doing so, the participants argued, would only reinforce the opposition to the agreement among the non-signatory movements and their supporters. Workshops were not held in Hamadiya and Hassa Hissa camps near Zalingei (Central Darfur) owing to opposition from supporters of SLA-Abdul Wahid. In other camps near Zalingei, several internally displaced persons (IDPs) expressed scepticism about the ability of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur to deliver peace because of its lack of inclusiveness. The signatory parties and civil society opted not to hold a workshop in Kalma camp, Southern Darfur, owing to tension and previous incidents of violence between supporters and opponents of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

10. The Implementation Follow-Up Commission held its second meeting on 16 January in El Fasher. The Commission considered reports presented by the signatory parties and UNAMID on progress made in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. The Commission welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the appointment of the Prosecutor to the Special Court for Darfur, and took note of political appointments in the national and State governments and the Darfur Regional Authority. The Commission reiterated its readiness to help the parties implement the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, and emphasized that the primary responsibility for implementation rests with the parties to the agreement. The Commission stated that its support would be contingent on the ability of implementing partners to move freely throughout Darfur. The Commission expressed deep concern about the continued military posture of the non-signatory movements and stressed that they and the Government of the Sudan must commit themselves to a negotiated settlement.

Negotiations towards an inclusive peace agreement

11. With regard to the mediation process, the Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator ad interim continued to promote the resumption of talks between the Government of the Sudan and the non-signatory movements. In this connection, the Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator ad interim called on Government officials and movement interlocutors to refrain from hostilities and exercise flexibility with regard to their preconditions for the commencement of talks. Differences between the parties, however, over the scope of negotiations have so far precluded the resumption of talks.

12. In a statement issued by Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on 25 January at its sixth general convention in Hideyat (South Kordofan), held on 24 and 25 January, Gibril Ibrahim was confirmed as the successor to Khalil Ibrahim, who was killed in hostilities in late December 2011.

13. From 20 to 23 February, the Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator ad interim met the Presidents of Burkina Faso, Chad and Southern Sudan to update them on the status of the peace process and to solicit their support in promoting the resumption of negotiations between the parties to the Darfur conflict. Each of the leaders expressed support for the Darfur peace process and stated that they would prevail on the Government of the Sudan and non-signatory movements to exercise more flexibility and a greater willingness to compromise with regard to commencing negotiations.

Internal Darfur dialogue on the peace process

14. As stated in the African Union and United Nations framework, lasting peace in Darfur can be achieved only through a peace process that includes all major stakeholders, including non-belligerents. The views of the civilian population, including women, need to be reflected in any political settlement to ensure local ownership of and broad-based support for the settlement. The framework therefore includes the holding of Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations to complement and enhance the provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. Under resolution 2003 (2011), the Security Council requested an assessment of the conditions necessary for a credible Darfur-based political process to determine, taking into account the views of the African Union, UNAMID engagement in support of the process.

15. In providing an assessment of such conditions, it is noted that the number of victims of arbitrary arrest and detention recorded by UNAMID decreased from 54 in the previous reporting period to 25 in the present period. The overall number of documented human rights violations, including violations of the right to physical integrity (through violence or harassment) and freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention, increased from 116 cases involving 273 victims from 1 October to 14 December 2011 to 148 cases involving 374 victims from 1 January to 31 March 2012. There were no recorded violations of the rights to free speech or assembly. These statistics indicate that, overall, the enabling environment for a Darfur-based political process remained largely unchanged during the reporting period.

16. With a view towards informing discussions within and between the African Union and the United Nations on the form and content that a Darfur-based political process should take, UNAMID has sought the views of Darfuri stakeholders on the role of internal dialogue. This took place in the context of disseminating information about the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur in parts of Darfur and in Khartoum, and involved consultations with representatives of, inter alia, civil society organizations, nomadic communities, IDPs, native administration, State legislators and traditional community leaders.

17. While the dissemination exercise and consultations are yet to be concluded, preliminary findings indicate that the majority of stakeholders consulted recognize that a Darfur-based internal dialogue has the potential to increase popular support for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and the inclusiveness of the peace process. However, a broad cross-section of stakeholders expressed concern about

the challenges of ensuring that all Darfuri stakeholder groups are represented equitably; protecting the right to freedom of expression; ensuring the security of participants; soliciting the commitment of the signatory parties to implementing the outcomes; and obtaining support for the process from international actors. UNAMID will continue to facilitate consultations and compile its findings once the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur dissemination exercise has been concluded by the signatory parties and civil society.

III. Security situation

18. Clashes between Government and movement forces occurred sporadically during the reporting period, particularly in Northern and Central Darfur. The security situation for IDPs and vulnerable groups, as well as for humanitarian and United Nations personnel, remained of concern.

19. In Central Darfur, local sources reported fighting between SLA-Abdul Wahid and Arab militia on 5 and 10 January in the Golo area (90 km north-east of Zalingei). No casualties were recorded. Despite several attempts, UNAMID was prevented by armed groups from accessing the area to verify the reports. On 8 January, Government authorities and local sources informed UNAMID that a National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) convoy was ambushed by an unidentified armed group in Gorne (60 km north-east of Zalingei), resulting in injuries to seven NISS personnel. On 22 January, approximately 30 unidentified armed men attacked a Government police station at Soja Village (50 km south-west of Zalingei), resulting in the death of one police officer and injuries to another. According to Government authorities, three police officers are missing following the attack. Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and an unidentified group occurred on 29 January at Straha camp in Nertiti (Western Darfur), resulting in injuries to a 16-year-old girl. UNAMID increased patrols in and around camps and villages affected by the fighting.

20. In Southern Darfur, local sources informed UNAMID that JEM combatants attacked Tajriba village (140 km south of Nyala) on 12 February, a market day, in an attempt to obtain supplies. The Sudanese Armed Forces responded and clashes ensued, reportedly resulting in the death of four JEM personnel. Attempts by UNAMID to verify the reports were obstructed by Government authorities.

21. In Northern Darfur, on 6 March hostilities broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces and armed movement forces in the vicinity of Baashim (110 km north-west of El Fasher). On 11 and 12 March, Government Border Guard forces attacked the villages of Birmaza and Mulagat (140 km north-west of El Fasher). Local sources reported three civilian fatalities and the looting of livestock. UNAMID verification patrols were denied access by local authorities.

22. On 27 March, an attempt by the Commissioner of the Kabkabiya locality to relocate a local market in Kabkibiya town, Northern Darfur, triggered a demonstration of approximately 400 people protesting the decision. Shots were fired by Government police, resulting in the death of two protestors. Demonstrators proceeded to the nearby UNAMID team site, reportedly in the mistaken belief that the Commissioner was at the site. The demonstrators attempted to force their way into the team site, pelting rocks and breaking the main gate. Three peacekeepers sustained injuries. Government police and military forces intervened to help prevent

the protestors from entering the team site. The protestors subsequently dispersed following a meeting between community leaders and the team site commander.

23. A delegation comprising Darfur Regional Authority Chairperson El Tigani Seisi, Government of the Sudan officials and the UNAMID Joint Special Representative visited Kabkabiya the following day in an attempt to calm the situation. Approximately 500 people armed with swords, machetes, sticks and stones gathered outside the team site and attempted to force their way in. Four UNAMID personnel and a World Food Programme (WFP) local staff member suffered moderate injuries after demonstrators breached the team site perimeter. UNAMID peacekeepers fired warning shots to deter the protestors and, when that failed to prevent them from entering the team site, minimum force was used, resulting in moderate injuries to four demonstrators. The delegation left the site unharmed.

24. In Jebel Marra, clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and SLA-Abdul Wahid forces were reported by local sources in Rokoro (58 km north-east of Nertiti) from 27 March to 4 April. The villages of Kia (12 km south of Rokoro) and Hilladrishid (8 km north-east of Rokoro) were reported to have been razed. Residents of Burgo (14 km north-east of Rokoro), Fanga (20 km east of Rokoro), Aro (6 km north-east of Rokoro) and Kulai (16 km south-east of Rokoro) reported aerial attacks by the Sudanese Armed Forces. UNAMID and United Nations humanitarian agencies are aware of claims of population movement into the surrounding mountains or Rokoro town as a result of these clashes and are attempting to verify the numbers. On 2 April, UNAMID conducted a verification patrol to Samara village, 5 km east of Sortony, which is located north of Rokoro. The patrol observed two craters with metallic fragments and crushed stones in the area, but there was no report of injury or death from the explosion.

25. With regard to incidents of conflict between local communities, on 22 February, the theft of approximately 150 cattle from a Zaghawa community in Hela Abdallah Moustapha (20 km north-east of Shangil Tobaya, Northern Darfur) by Birgid tribesmen triggered a clash between Birgid, supported by the Government-established Popular Defence Forces (PDF), and Zaghawa, supported by SLA-Minni Minawi. Local community members informed UNAMID that six Birgid tribesmen were killed in the fighting. On 28 February, Birgid and Zaghawa groups, supported by PDF and SLA-Minni Minawi, respectively, again clashed in Abu Delek (45 km south-east of El Fasher, Northern Darfur). While hostilities subsequently subsided, relations between the communities remained tense. To promote reconciliation, UNAMID engaged with the Darfur peace and reconciliation commission, the native administration and traditional reconciliation committees. The parties were unwilling, however, to enter into a reconciliation process.

26. In regard to the freedom of movement of UNAMID personnel, of the 14,172 overland patrols conducted by the Operation between 1 January and 31 March, 17 were restricted by Government authorities, compared to 31 in the previous reporting period. UNAMID personnel movements were restricted on one occasion by movement forces when, on 19 February, a large group of JEM fighters staged a two-day stand-off with a UNAMID patrol near Umm Barru (Northern Darfur). The incident was resolved following the reinforcement of UNAMID troops. Of the 4,460 flights undertaken by UNAMID during the reporting period, Government authorities denied 116 flight requests, a decrease from 190 out of 4,910 flights in the previous reporting period. Government authorities cited the lack of written authorization

from relevant authorities, insecurity or ongoing military operations as reasons for denying access to movement by air and land. As indicated above, UNAMID movement in areas of hostilities and/or of a sensitive nature continues to be prevented by the armed movements and Government forces. Of particular concern are the issue of access to and in Jebel Marra. During the 28 March meeting of the tripartite coordination mechanism among the United Nations, the African Union and the Government of the Sudan, the freedom of movement for UNAMID personnel was discussed, and representatives from the Government of the Sudan stated that UNAMID would be able to access areas of concern.

27. Since my last report, the Ceasefire Commission met four times in El Fasher. In late February, LJM nominated its representatives to the teams responsible for conducting, in conjunction with UNAMID, initial verification of the movement's forces. A total of 52 LJM Ceasefire Commission representatives were transported by UNAMID to 26 team sites throughout Darfur. From 5 to 9 March, the verification teams, which consisted of one UNAMID military observer and two LJM representatives, then undertook the initial verification of LJM units as a prerequisite for the provision of non-military logistic support, in accordance with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. The verification of units was based on lists of personnel strength and military equipment provided by LJM and confirmed by UNAMID. The information will also be used by the Ceasefire Commission for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and integration planning. A more detailed verification exercise will be undertaken in accordance with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur prior to the commencement of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the integration of LJM forces into the Sudanese Armed Forces.

28. While verification was to take place at 46 locations, teams were prevented by SLA-Abdul Wahid, SLA-Free Will and NISS personnel from accessing seven positions. At five of the seven locations attempts to negotiate access with SLA-Abdul Wahid and SLA-Free Will commanders were unsuccessful. Verification could not be undertaken at these locations within the allocated time period. On the two occasions teams were initially restricted by NISS, access was subsequently gained following communication between UNAMID and Sudanese Armed Forces liaison officers. In an additional 11 locations, verification teams found on arrival that no LJM forces were present. In a number of other locations, verification was delayed owing to internal problems within LJM pertaining to competing leadership claims between commanders. Consequently, the exercise was extended for two days, during which time the problems were resolved by LJM and verification was able to proceed at the locations. A final, consolidated report on the exercise, which will be presented at the next Ceasefire Commission meeting in accordance with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, is being finalized.

Security and safety

29. The number of incidents involving criminality in Darfur recorded by UNAMID remained relatively unchanged during the reporting period. A total of 236 cases of banditry were documented, including 10 incidents involving the kidnapping of local residents (compared to 264 cases of banditry, including 11 kidnappings, in the previous reporting period). Recorded fatalities due to criminal activities numbered 70 during the reporting period, as compared to 71 in the previous period.

30. Criminal acts targeting UNAMID personnel resulted in the deaths of two peacekeepers. On 21 January, a group of unidentified armed men confronted a UNAMID patrol near Saleah (Southern Darfur), killing one peacekeeper and injuring another. The perpetrators took four vehicles (two were later recovered by Government authorities) and military equipment. Investigations into the incident resulted in the concerned contingent being requested to urgently address the relevant unit's operational shortcomings or make arrangements for it to be repatriated. On 24 February, unidentified gunmen opened fire on a UNAMID patrol in El Daein, Eastern Darfur, injuring two police officers. On 29 February, a group of unidentified armed men fired on a UNAMID patrol near Shaeria (Southern Darfur), killing one peacekeeper and injuring three others. The perpetrators escaped with a vehicle and military equipment. An investigation is ongoing.

31. Two incidents involving the abduction of United Nations personnel took place during the reporting period. On 26 January, a UNAMID-contracted flight engineer was abducted by four armed persons in the Al-Matar area of Nyala (Southern Darfur). The abductee was released unharmed six hours later following the intervention of NISS. On 6 March, two WFP staff members (one international and one local) were abducted in Nyala (Southern Darfur) by six armed persons. The national staff member was released on the same day in Kass (Southern Darfur). WFP and the Government of the Sudan are working to secure the release of the international staff member still in captivity.

32. A total of 10 UNAMID, 6 United Nations agency and 2 international non-governmental organization vehicles were carjacked during the reporting period in 11 locations throughout Darfur, compared to 4 UNAMID and 2 international NGO vehicles carjacked between 1 October and 31 December 2011. In one of the incidents, a UNAMID military officer sustained a gunshot wound during a carjacking in Kutum (Northern Darfur) on 16 February.

33. On 24 February, two United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) personnel, one international and one national, based in Gok Machar (Northern Bahr al-Ghazal, South Sudan) were detained by Government of the Sudan police at a market in Safahah (approximately 5 km north of the Bahr al-Ghazal/Kiir River and 200 km south-east of El Daein, Eastern Darfur). They were initially taken to nearby Abu Matarik (Eastern Darfur) and, subsequently, to El Daein, where they continue to be detained by NISS. On 21 March, a local judge heard the case against the staff and recommended to the Minister of Justice that they be released. UNMISS and UNAMID are coordinating efforts for the immediate release of the two staff members.

IV. Humanitarian situation

34. The hostilities between Birgid and Zaghawa groups, supported by PDF and SLA-Minni Minawi, respectively, in Dar el Salam locality (Northern Darfur) caused new displacement in the reporting period. As at 19 March, the International Organization on Migration (IOM) had verified the arrival of 3,032 recently displaced persons in Zam Zam camp as a result of clashes that started in February in the villages of Alauna, Abu Delek, Saq Elnyaam and Hillet Asset in the locality. The verification process is ongoing. Humanitarian agencies have taken steps to provide the new arrivals with assistance.

35. Food insecurity continued to be of concern in parts of Darfur due to a relatively poor harvest following low and intermittent seasonal rainfall, particularly in Northern Darfur, where the price of staple food items increased by 30 per cent, according to WFP assessments, and the ratio of food insecure households also increased over the past six months. Food prices also rose in Southern and Western Darfur by 16 and 27 per cent, respectively, during the same period. However, the food security situation remained relatively stable in Southern Darfur due to a strong harvest. WFP, with the support of UNAMID security escorts, continued its food distribution, nutrition interventions, food-for-recovery activities and school meals programmes throughout Darfur.

36. Health-care assistance decreased in Western Darfur following the withdrawal of Medair and Aide Médicale Internationale owing to a lack of available funding. The international NGOs were operating 26 and 7 health-care facilities, respectively. While other international NGOs have indicated their willingness to take over the operations of some of these facilities, over 15 clinics will remain without support. In Northern Darfur, humanitarian actors also reported reduced delivery of health-care services because of difficulties transporting medicines to rural facilities as a result of restrictions imposed by the Government.

37. A diphtheria outbreak, which was first reported in December 2011 in IDP camps in Northern Darfur, resulted in 992 suspected cases and 17 deaths. It has since been brought under control. A diphtheria awareness campaign was launched at affected camps by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Northern Darfur Ministry of Health.

38. With regard to improving access to water, and further to pledges made by donors during the Darfur International Water Conference held in June 2011, on 26 January the African Development Bank granted 3.3 million euros to the Government of the Sudan for the improvement of water and sanitation infrastructure, as well as for building local capacities to manage and operate water resources and related infrastructure. Between 15 and 20 rural townships are expected to benefit from the grant.

39. While the humanitarian community was able to reach and provide assistance to the vast majority of communities in need in Darfur, aid workers faced access constraints in several areas because of insecurity and restrictions imposed by the Government. Western Jebel Marra in Central Darfur remained inaccessible during the reporting period. UNAMID and the United Nations country team continued to engage with Government authorities and leaders of the armed movements to improve access to these areas. Movement between Zalingei and Nertiti was also intermittently restricted by Government security authorities citing grounds of insecurity. In Southern Darfur, humanitarian actors curtailed their movements in the eastern and southern parts of the State, particularly on the Nyala to El Daien road, because of restrictions imposed by the Government.

V. Rule of law, governance and human rights

40. The human rights situation in Darfur deteriorated during the reporting period. Incidents recorded by UNAMID mainly involved cases of arbitrary arrest and detention, sexual and gender-based violence and violations of the right to physical integrity.

41. As noted in paragraph 15 above, the number of victims of arbitrary arrest and detention recorded by UNAMID decreased from 54 in the previous reporting period to 25 in the present reporting period. The overall number of documented human rights violations increased from 116 cases involving 273 victims to 148 cases involving 374 victims over the reporting cycle.

42. In one of the 13 recorded cases of arbitrary arrest and detention, Nyala University students were detained on 20 February for involvement in demonstrations protesting the removal of Abdul Hamid Musa Kasha as Wali of Southern Darfur. As at 27 March, one of the students detained remained in NISS custody. In the remaining 12 cases, 24 individuals were held at detention centres operated by NISS, military intelligence or Government police. UNAMID was unable to establish the reason for their detention or their current status due to the refusal of the authorities to approve requests for information or access to the detainees.

43. UNAMID-documented violations of the right to physical integrity accounted for 73 cases involving 232 victims, compared to 57 cases involving 138 victims in the previous reporting period. A total of 31 cases involved armed attacks on civilians by unidentified armed assailants during which the victims were also robbed. The remaining cases, which did not involve theft, included 3 cases of torture, 3 cases of abduction, 14 cases of physical assault intended to threaten and intimidate, 13 cases of injuries to victims and 9 cases of harassment.

44. The Operation recorded 31 cases of sexual and gender-based violence involving 41 victims, 12 of whom were minors, during the reporting period. This was a decrease from 37 cases involving 53 victims (including 29 minors) in the previous period. Of the 31 cases recorded during the period under review, 17 were reported to Government police, 2 were reported to the local *Shartai* (senior community leader) due to a lack of police presence in the area and 12 went unreported to either police or community leaders.

45. UNAMID monitored police investigations and court proceedings on incidents involving human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence cases. In a hearing in Kass (Southern Darfur) on 22 January, 8 persons accused of rape were sentenced to death. A ninth defendant was sentenced to five years of imprisonment, while a tenth was acquitted due to insufficient evidence. UNAMID advocated with the concerned authorities against the use of capital punishment. On 26 February, a court in Southern Darfur found guilty a perpetrator of the attempted rape of a minor and sentenced him to 15 years of imprisonment.

46. UNAMID continued to promote the enhanced protection of women and girls in Darfur. On 17 February, the Operation conducted workshops on women's participation in the peace process and on sexual and gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming, respectively, in Nertiti (Western Darfur). In addition, it continued to work with religious leaders on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.

47. With regard to capacity-building of State judiciary and prison authorities, UNAMID facilitated a five-week computer skills training course for 15 prison officers in El Geneina (Western Darfur). On 15 February, the Operation handed over two completed quick-impact projects to the Southern Darfur Director of Prisons. UNAMID conducted six programmes for 223 police officers (211 males and

12 females) on field commander training, computer skills, crime scene investigation and first aid.

48. On 21 February, the Judges' Training Centre of the Sudanese Judiciary agreed to participate in UNAMID training on international human rights and humanitarian law standards. Professional and traditional judges throughout Darfur will be trained during the year. The training schedule is under development.

49. The Independent Expert on the human rights situation in the Sudan, Mohamed Chande Othman, visited Khartoum and Darfur from 22 to 26 January. During consultations with Sudanese authorities, it was agreed that he would establish, with the assistance of UNAMID and the United Nations country team, as appropriate, an inclusive needs assessment committee that would propose a comprehensive technical assistance and capacity-building programme to help the Government address key human rights and protection of civilians concerns in the Sudan, including in Darfur.

Child protection

50. Following its submission to UNAMID, on 15 December 2011, of its final progress report on the implementation of its action plan to end the recruitment and use of children as combatants, 40 children formerly associated with SLA-Free Will, a signatory party to the Declaration of Commitment to the Darfur Peace Agreement, in the areas of Malha and Kafud (Northern Darfur), were registered with the Sudan Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission for reintegration. Similar action plans are being negotiated by UNAMID with SLA-Abdul Wahid, LJM, JEM and other, smaller armed groups. Sudanese Armed Forces focal points within the Ministry of Defence informed UNAMID that the Minister, General Abdul Rahim Mohammed Hussein, gave his approval for the conclusion of an action plan, which would apply not only to the Sudanese Armed Forces, but also to other affiliated armed groups, such as those that are part of the Ministry of the Interior, all of whom are on my list of parties who recruit and use child soldiers.

VI. Protection of civilians

51. UNAMID continued to implement its protection of civilians strategy. In this regard, 22 civilian staff members with expertise in civil affairs, human rights, humanitarian affairs and rule of law have so far been redeployed from UNAMID mission and State headquarters to 21 team sites throughout Darfur to monitor and report on civilian protection issues, provide technical assistance to military and police units, and work closely with local authorities and humanitarian aid agencies in areas outside the main city centres.

52. The United Nations country team, in particular the Darfur Protection Cluster and the Protection of Civilians Working Group, compiled an inventory of existing protection challenges and response capacities in the two new States of Central and Eastern Darfur. The assessment found that most humanitarian agencies have some presence in the States, albeit at varying levels, and that the key protection concerns include, inter alia, Southern Sudanese civilians in El Daein who remained after the secession of Southern Sudan. The 12 February memorandum of understanding between the Sudan and Southern Sudan stipulates that Southern Sudanese residing in the Sudan are required to apply for a visa and work permit from the Government

by 8 April. However, a Government information campaign on the issue has not yet commenced in Darfur because of a lack of funding. IOM continued to airlift Southern Sudanese from Khartoum and Kosti (White Nile State) to Southern Sudan, but it has limited capacity in Darfur, and therefore has not been able to provide such assistance in Darfur. A Southern Sudan consular service is yet to be established in Khartoum to issue documentation necessary for Southern Sudanese in the Sudan to register with Government of the Sudan authorities. Consultations are under way within the humanitarian community on steps to enhance the coordination of protection activities, including for Southern Sudanese in Eastern Darfur, with newly appointed State government officials.

VII. UNAMID deployment and operations

53. As at 31 March, the strength of UNAMID civilian personnel stood at 85 per cent of the approved strength of 5,285 (1,096 international staff, 2,905 national staff and 477 United Nations Volunteers). The Operation continues to mitigate security risks and improve living conditions to improve the recruitment and retention of staff.

54. The strength of UNAMID military personnel stood at 18,082, representing 92.4 per cent of the authorized strength of 19,555, including 17,458 troops, 319 staff officers, 231 military observers and 74 liaison officers.

55. The personnel strength of UNAMID police stood at 3,007 (82 per cent men and 18 per cent women), representing 79.7 per cent of the authorized strength of 3,772. A total of 16 of the authorized 19 formed police units have been deployed (2,235 personnel; i.e. 84 per cent of the authorized strength of 2,660). An additional unit is scheduled to be deployed by mid-2012.

56. Between 14 December 2011 and 31 March 2012, the Government issued 1,439 new entry visas for UNAMID personnel. At at 31 March, 729 visas were pending, 393 of which were for civilian police officers, 122 for contractors, 101 for civilian personnel, 95 for military personnel and 18 for official visitors. UNAMID continued to urge Government officials to process outstanding visa requests, particularly for police officers, and to expedite the issuance of new visas in accordance with the status-of-forces agreement.

57. Following a series of meetings between UNAMID and Government officials, 447 containers of UNAMID equipment and supplies held by customs authorities in Port Sudan since May 2011 were released on 10 January. The containers, which mainly held furniture needed to complete the establishment of offices and accommodation, were transported to UNAMID facilities in Darfur.

58. During the reporting period, UNAMID conducted 14,172 patrols, including 7,229 routine patrols, 2,153 logistic and administrative patrols, 2,103 night patrols, 1,401 short-range patrols, 568 long-range patrols and 718 humanitarian escorts. UNAMID police conducted a total of 10,911 patrols, including 5,793 inside IDP camps, 3,014 in towns and villages, 1,780 medium-range patrols and 324 long-range patrols.

59. There was a slight increase in the number of troops and formed police units that met their contingent-owned equipment requirements, as set forth in the memorandums of understanding with troop-contributing and police-contributing

countries. However, this has not translated into significant improvements in the overall operational and self-sustainment capabilities of military and police contingents. Of the 54 units deployed to UNAMID, the number that met contingent-owned equipment requirements increased from 22 to 25. Several of the units that fall short of the required standard have significant shortfalls. The Secretariat continues to work with troop- and police-contributing countries so that they take steps to enable the remaining units to meet the requirements stipulated in the memorandums of understanding. The deficiencies in major equipment requirements hamper the readiness of contingents to deploy and constrains the ability of the Operation to task those contingents for day-to-day operations. More importantly, the shortfalls are putting peacekeepers at risk and affecting the safety and security of unarmed UNAMID personnel and aid workers escorted by the troops.

60. During the reporting period, seven additional water boreholes were drilled, bringing to 55 the total number of wells completed since the deployment of UNAMID. These are shared with local communities.

61. A total of 11 quick-impact projects were completed during the reporting period, with an additional 242 ongoing projects at various stages of completion. UNAMID has put in place a new internal structure to expedite the implementation of projects, which includes decentralization of the project proposal approval process and the increased involvement of UNAMID police and military personnel.

62. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1983 (2011), between 1 January and 18 March UNAMID trained 953 Government officials, including police, military and prison wardens; and 641 community members, including IDPs, civil society representatives and prison inmates, on HIV/AIDS awareness.

63. From 24 to 30 January, the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Dmitry Titov, met with Government of the Sudan officials; local Darfur officials; civil society representatives, including IDPs; and UNAMID personnel in Khartoum and Darfur, among others, to discuss the way forward on issues related to rule of law and security institutions in Darfur. In his meetings with Government officials, the Assistant Secretary-General addressed the request made by the authorities in December 2011 to suspend all United Nations activities related to mine action in Darfur on the grounds that there are no land mines in the region. The Assistant Secretary-General clarified that UNAMID mine action activities included a wider set of operations, including the removal of unexploded ordnance and public awareness-raising about the risks posed by such devices. Subsequently, on 25 January UNAMID resumed operations to reduce the threat posed by unexploded ordnance in Darfur. In this connection, 9 km of land and 99 km of road were assessed as free of unexploded ordnance during the reporting period. In addition, 65 items of unexploded ordnance and 2,197 rounds of small arms ammunition were located and destroyed. UNAMID also verified 60,000 m^2 of surface area and 400 m^2 of sub-surface area as clear of unexploded ordnance. Further, it delivered unexploded ordnance risk-awareness training to 25,784 beneficiaries.

64. The radio bridging solution for outreach to communities continued with one-hour long programmes broadcast twice daily on a short-wave frequency hosted by the Sudan National Radio Corporation. The Radio Corporation requested in February a one-year extension of the current bridging agreement. However, UNAMID preferred to extend the arrangement by three months, pending further

progress towards obtaining an independent radio licence. It also established agreements with the then three Darfur State radio stations, which began broadcasting UNAMID programmes over FM stations.

VIII. Progress against Operation benchmarks

65. Some progress was made against the first benchmark: the achievement of a comprehensive political solution to the conflict. This included progress in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, as noted in paragraphs 3 to 10 of the present report. While negotiations between the Government and non-signatory movements have not resumed, regional leaders indicated their readiness to encourage the parties to enter into dialogue.

66. The second benchmark relates to the restoration of a stable and secure environment throughout Darfur. Although the overall security situation in Darfur remained relatively unchanged, clashes took place between Government and armed movements, particularly in Central Darfur, and the risks of banditry and criminality remained largely unchanged.

67. The third benchmark pertains to strengthening the rule of law, governance and the protection of human rights. While the overall human rights and sexual and gender-based violence situation in Darfur has not changed significantly, UNAMID continued to provide technical and logistical support to strengthen sexual and gender-based violence, judicial and corrections capacity.

68. The fourth benchmark pertains to stabilizing the humanitarian situation and facilitating humanitarian access to populations in need of assistance. Overall, the humanitarian situation in Darfur remained relatively stable during the period under review, except for the new displacement of civilians from Dar el Salam locality to Zam Zam camp. Humanitarian access to western Jebel Marra remained restricted and limitations on the delivery of essential medical supplies to Sortony (Northern Darfur) remained in place. UNAMID sought to enhance the physical protection of civilians and facilitate the work of humanitarian agencies by increasing the average number of patrols conducted daily from 160 in the last reporting period to 244 in the period under review, and by deploying civilian staff to team sites.

IX. Review of uniformed personnel

69. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2003 (2011), the Secretariat, in coordination with UNAMID, the African Union and the United Nations country team, conducted a review of UNAMID uniformed personnel with a view towards ensuring the effective and efficient use of military and police resources in the implementation of the mandate of the Operation.

70. The review commenced with an assessment of the conflict dynamics on the ground and an analysis of expected medium-term trends. Thereafter, UNAMID, with staff support from the Secretariat, examined the military, police and requisite support concepts of operations to identify adjustments required to most effectively meet current and expected security challenges on the ground.

71. In February, a senior-level team of representatives from the African Union, the United Nations country team and the Secretariat visited UNAMID counterparts in El Fasher to validate the findings of the conflict assessment and staff review of the concepts of operation in order to identify areas in which readjustments to the size and the configuration of uniformed personnel would be appropriate.

72. The key points arising from the conflict assessment relate to changes on the ground since the mission was established in January 2008. In this regard, direct confrontation between Government and armed groups decreased overall, with fighting concentrated in specific areas, particularly in the northern part of Southern Darfur and areas of the southern half of Northern Darfur. Clashes can be unpredictable, depending on the movement of armed elements and military operations of the Government to flush them out of pockets where they continue to exist. The affect of these clashes continues to affect the protection of civilians.

73. Criminality has emerged as the most significant threat to civilians and humanitarian workers. While the Government has indicated its commitment to address criminality, it faces significant challenges in doing so, because of weak capacity in police and judicial sectors and political dynamics on the ground.

74. Criminality on transport routes, in and around IDP camps, in urban areas, as well as politically motivated violence and intercommunal conflict over resources, are key dynamics of the present security situation in Darfur.

75. With the commencement of returns of IDPs, albeit thus far relatively low in number, and efforts in accordance with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and the establishment of the Darfur Regional Authority to support further returns, security in return areas will be a key focus in the medium term.

76. In the light of the findings of the conflict assessment, the review recommended that UNAMID uniformed personnel be reconfigured to focus on the areas in Darfur with the highest security threats, with the military focusing on areas of armed conflict and the provision of area security, while the police would concentrate on threats of criminality in high IDP concentration areas and capacity-building to support returns.

77. While all current team sites would be maintained, the number of troops at each team site would be adjusted commensurate with the level of risk. That adjustment would result in an overall shift of the centre of gravity of the UNAMID military to areas with the highest risk of armed conflict. The redeployment would also facilitate more frequent and longer patrols, including greater use of temporary operating bases. The reconfiguration of the disposition of UNAMID military forces would be coupled with a strengthening of the force reserve to enable rapid build-up in areas under emerging threats. The objective is to streamline UNAMID military forces, and by doing so, create greater capacity to be more proactive to deter and meet threats on the ground.

78. The need to retain some of the enabling units that supported the establishment of the Operation is under review. In this regard, most team sites have been established and greater use is being made of local contracts, thus mitigating the need for some of these units.

79. The review also found that there was an overlap in the use of military escorts and formed police units and that a more precise tasking of police and military personnel could achieve greater efficiencies in their use.

80. In this connection, the military will concentrate on areas of armed clashes and long-range patrols for area security, and formed police units will concentrate on the provision of security for individual police officers to address issues related to criminality in and around IDP camps and urban centres. In addition, the UNAMID police-training programme will be adjusted to support the Government and newly created Darfur Regional Authority to create capacity to enhance security in areas of returns.

81. Joint operating centres will be established at the team site level to enable decentralization of day-to-day tasking of activities, thus avoiding overlap that can occur when tasking is assigned at higher levels. With the deployment of civilian substantive personnel at the team site level, substantive components will also be engaged in the joint operating centres.

82. Based on the findings and the recommendations of the review as outlined above, I intend to proceed with downward adjustments in UNAMID consisting of approximately 4,200 military elements, 280 formed police unit elements and 1,460 individual police officers, and a reconfiguration of the remaining elements as appropriate. I recommend to the Security Council a corresponding reduction in the respective authorized strengths.

X. Observations

83. I welcome the establishment of the Darfur Regional Authority as an important step in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, as well as the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the appointment of a Prosecutor for the Special Court for Darfur with jurisdiction over gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian laws committed in Darfur since 2003.

84. It is particularly important that the Darfur Regional Authority is now able to bring about concrete improvements to the lives of the people of Darfur by providing peace dividends, in particular in the areas of reconstruction and support for the return or resettlement of IDPs and refugees. In this regard, the signatory parties have to ensure that the Darfur Regional Authority has sufficient resources and capacities to fulfil its responsibility, in particular by empowering the Darfur Regional Authority through fulfilling the pledge to make contributions to the Darfur Reconstruction and Development Fund and microfinance system to support income-generating activities. Reiterating the United Nations commitment to support the work of the Darfur Regional Authority, I welcome the efforts of UNAMID and the United Nations country team to identify areas in which the United Nations system could provide support for the work of the Darfur Regional Authority in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and call on the international community to also provide assistance as appropriate.

85. Now that the initial verification of LJM forces has been conducted, I expect the parties, in collaboration with the Ceasefire Commission, to make concrete progress, in particular, through improvements to the security situation inside and

around IDP camps. This can be achieved through the timely implementation of the provisions related to the disarmament of armed militia groups; civilian arms control; and the establishment of the Government of the Sudan/LJM joint coordination mechanism. I note that LJM combatants are in need of non-military logistical support such as shelter, medical supplies and treatment, clothing, food and water. While this is the primary responsibility of the Government, I call on international partners to assist in this regard.

86. The willingness of the people of Darfur to engage in an internal dialogue and political process should be further strengthened. However, if the process is to be credible and serve the purpose for which it was conducted, participants must be able to speak openly, and move and assemble freely. I encourage UNAMID to continue consultations with the parties on issues related to the basic rights of the people of Darfur and their proportionate participation in the process.

87. The continued belligerent rhetoric and posture of the non-signatory movements is a matter of serious concern, and I call on them to eschew violence and choose the path of peace and negotiated settlement. Governments from the region and all concerned must support and encourage the Darfur movements to work towards peace.

88. I remain deeply concerned about the increase in attacks against UNAMID personnel and property, in which two peacekeepers lost their lives during the reporting period. These acts are unacceptable and the perpetrators must be promptly arrested and brought to justice. I call on the Government of the Sudan to continue to work closely with UNAMID in investigating any violent acts against the Operation. I also urge the Government to release the UNMISS personnel currently in detention in Eastern Darfur.

89. Some recent progress has been made in the issuance of visas for UNAMID personnel, and I encourage the Government to maintain momentum in this regard. Any delay in the issuance of visas, as well as restrictions of UNAMID movements and flights, constitute operational impediments that limit the Operation's ability to carry out its mandate. I call on the Government to take all action necessary to allow the Operation to operate freely, in accordance with the provisions of the status-of-forces agreement.

90. In conclusion, I would like to thank the Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator ad interim, Ibrahim Gambari, and all personnel of UNAMID for their tireless efforts to promote peace and stability in Darfur. In this connection, I would also like to thank those Member States that have contributed military and police personnel to UNAMID. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the many aid workers in Darfur who operate in challenging circumstances to deliver humanitarian assistance to the people of the region. Lastly, I welcome the commitment of regional actors to support the peace process.